

AMENDMENT TO THE DRAWINGS

FIGS. 3 and 4 were objected to for containing labels in a language other than English. As shown by the attached replacement drawings, FIGS. 3 and 4 have been amended to overcome this objection.

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application, with claim 1 being independent. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 5-8 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art.

As a preliminary matter Applicants notes that claim 1 has been amended to correct only a transitional wording. This amendment is for improved clarity and is not limiting for any reason related to patentability.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed on March 24, 2006 was objected to as allegedly failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each cited foreign patent document, non-patent literature publication or the portions thereof which caused it to be listed. Applicants will obtain the legible copy of each cited foreign patent document and will submit them to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in due course.

Specification

The specification was objected to for various informalities. The specification has been amended to overcome this objection.

Drawings

FIGS. 3 and 4 were objected to for containing labels in a language other than English. FIGS. 3 and 4 have been amended to overcome this objection.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,506,595 (“Fukano”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 recites a display unit for vehicles for displaying a virtual image reflecting a display light emitted from a display instrument. The display unit includes a reflection member that is held in a rotatable state and reflects the display light, driving means that rotatably operates the reflection means, and storage means that can store the positional data depending on the rotation position of the reflecting means for each user. The display unit also includes control means that inputs the identification information from user identifying means for identifying a user and reads the positional data corresponding to the identification information from the storage means, and operates the driving means on the basis of this read positional data.

Fukano does not appear to describe or suggest a display unit that includes, among other features, control means that inputs the identification information from user identifying means for identifying a user and reads the positional data corresponding to the identification information from the storage means, and operates the driving means on the basis of this read positional data, as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added).

Fukano describes a vehicle display system that can project optical image onto different areas on a front windshield in accordance with the effective height of a driver’s eyes. Fukano at Abstract. Referring to FIG. 1 of Fukano, the vehicle display system includes an image source (4), a mirror (2), and drive motor (8). Fukano at col. 3, lines 7-22. The drive motor (8) is connected to a controller (10), which controls the motor’s drive direction and the magnitude for positioning the mirror (2). Fukano at col. 3, lines 23-24.

To project an optical image in accordance with the height of the driver, in one implementation, the vehicle display system allows the driver to manually control the drive motor (8) so as to adjust the mirror angle until the displayed image can be clearly seen by the driver. Fukano at col. 3, lines 35-37. Alternatively and in another implementation, the vehicle display system automatically adjusts the image depending upon the seat position (e.g., the sliding position and the inclination position). Fukano at col. 4, lines 8-12.

In neither case, however, does Fukano appear to describe or suggest that its vehicle display system includes control means that inputs the identification information from user identifying means for identifying a user and reads the positional data corresponding to the identification information from the storage means, and operates the driving means on the basis of this read positional data, as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that Fukano teaches the above-recited feature in column 2, lines 4-8 and 31-36. Applicants disagree. In column 2, lines 4-8, Fukano describes that its vehicle display system is configured to allow adjustments of the display so that each driver can observe all of the information displayed on the front windshield which is affected by variation among eye points. In column 2, lines 31-36, Fukano describes that its vehicle display system is configured to store data specifying the selected display section of the front windshield with respect to each of the various drives. Neither of these sections, without more however, suggest or describe that vehicle display system of Fukano includes control means that inputs the identification information from user identifying means for identifying a user and reads the positional data corresponding to the identification information from the storage means, and operates the driving means on the basis of this read positional data, as recited in claim 1 (emphasis added).

Dependent Claims

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because claim 1 is allowable for the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims dependent thereon are also allowable. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable based on their own merits by adding novel and non-obvious features to the combination.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102/103 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

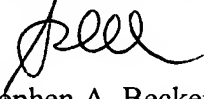
Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication for which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Application No.: 10/573,477

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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